

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 2081

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS MARR PFOR TU

SUBJ: OPPOSITION STATEMENT ON NEW U.S.-GOT DEFENSE AGREEMENT

1. NEWLY ELECTED DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OPPOSITION
REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) AND FORMER DEFENSE
MINISTER HASAN ESAT ISIK HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT WHICH
ACCUSES THE GOVERNMENT OF PLANNING TO CONCLUDE AN
UNFAVORABLE NEW BASE AGREEMENT AND WHICH CLAIMS THAT
AGREEMENT WILL HAVE NO LASTING VALIDITY UNLESS IT IS
SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL OF THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

2. FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF ISIK'S
PRINCIPAL REMARKS AS CARRIED BY SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS
ASSOCIATED WITH RPP AND THE LEFT:

BEGIN TEXT:

WE HAVE AHEAD OF US AN IMPORTANT EXTERNAL PROBLEM.
THE GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT IS ON THE EVE OF
SIGNING AN AGREEMENT WITH AMERICA ON THE SUBJECT OF THE
EMBARGO AND BASES. IF THE GOVERNMENT BY A FAIT ACCOMPLI
SIGNS NEW BASE AGREEMENTS WITHOUT ENSURING TURKEY'S
SECURITY AND THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO AND IS SATIS-
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FIED WITH SUCH HEROIC GESTURES AS "THE FLAG OVER THE

BASES IS OURS, THE COMMANDERS ARE OURS," IT SHOULD BE KNOWN THAT NOTHING MUCH CAN BE EXPECTED FROM THESE AGREEMENTS. THE TURKISH NATION CANNOT ACCEPT AN AGREEMENT WHICH CASTS A SHADOW ON ITS SOVEREIGNTY, WHICH CANNOT BE RECONCILED WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY IN PARTNERSHIP AND WHICH ALLOCATES, UNDER WHATEVER GUISE, A SECTION OF ITS TERRITORY FOR THE USE OF ANOTHER COUNTRY IN RETURN FOR MONEY. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT BE SUBMITTED TO THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR APPROVAL. OTHERWISE THE VALIDITY OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT WILL BE LIMITED TO THE PERIOD OF RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT AND WILL NOT BE VALID FOR THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY. END TEXT.

3. COMMENT: THE GOT HAS INSISTED UPON LANGUAGE IN THE NEW DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD PERMIT IT TO BE REGARDED AS AN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY (AS IN THE CASE OF THE 1969 DCA). SUCH IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENTS DO NOT REQUIRE PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL. (THE GOT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE, HOWEVER, TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE AGREEMENT WOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF CONSULTATIONS WITH PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONS.) THE OPPOSITION NOW SEEMS TO BE CHALLENGING THIS STRATEGY. INCREASED PROSPECTS FOR A PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON THE AGREEMENT WOULD PROBABLY REDUCE THE GOVERNMENT'S FLEXIBILITY ON CERTAIN SENSITIVE ISSUES STILL UNDER NEGOTIATION. MACOMBER

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